

Brown House
0.1 mile north of U. S. Route 422
Womelsdorf
Berks County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1049

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BROWN HOUSE

HABS No. PA-1049

Location: 0.1 mile north of U. S. Route 422, Womelsdorf,
Berks County, Pennsylvania

Present Owner: Wagner and Emrich Estate

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement
of Significance: This large house has unusual elaborate detail
and shows an early use of certain classic
revival proportions and motifs.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The house was built in 1819 by a Mr. Brown. The initials
S. B. and the date 1819 are on the leader straps at the cornice.

Reference: P. C. Croll, Annals of Womelsdorf, Pa. and Com-
munity, 1723-1923 (Reading, Pennsylvania: Reading
Eagle Press, 1923).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Brown house is a two-story, six-bay, brick house with
large, wide windows and the broad horizontal proportions of the
classic revival period. There is little evidence of any changes
having been made on the exterior. However, some modernization
has taken place on the interior.

The walls and roof of the house appear to be sound, and the
interior is in fair condition. The exterior woodwork needs atten-
tion, particularly the two front doors. The doors have not been
painted in years, and the fine detail and moldings of the frames
are rotting and falling off.

The exterior walls are of brick laid in Flemish bond. The
chimneys are at the ends. The house has two doors on the front,
a practice which became popular somewhat later. The two doors are
set in identical wood frames with Ionic pilasters supporting finely
detailed entablatures without pediments.

The house is arranged about a central stair hall with two rooms
on either side. A very graceful curved stair rises against the rear
wall of the hall. The walls and ceiling are plastered. The interior
doors in the hall are of twelve square panels, the field of each panel
being bordered by a gold stripe.

The interior trim, such as mantels, door frames, window frames, chair rails, and wainscoting, is done in a restrained, classic revival manner.

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